On Maundy Thursday

By

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael W. Holland, Ph.D. LPC-S, LADAC, AADC, CCDP-D

Founding Bishop
Anglican Church International

Owner
Holland Counseling of the Ozarks, LLC

Theological Summary

"On Maundy Thursday" reflects on the meaning of Maundy Thursday as the beginning of the Church's observance of Christ's Passion and the opening of the sacred three days. It centers on Jesus' "new commandment" (maundy)—to love one another as he has loved us—and explains that this love is shown through humble service and self-giving sacrifice. The reflection points to Jesus washing the disciples' feet as a concrete model of Christian discipleship and ties that act to the deeper sacrificial gift remembered in the Eucharist. The included Prayer Attributed to St. Francis reinforces the kind of character and disposition required to live this commandment (seeking peace, pardon, and selfless love), and a quotation from Michno emphasizes the Triduum's themes of watchfulness, thanksgiving, and contemplation as the liturgy moves toward Good Friday *(Microsoft Copilot).*

On Maundy Thursday

Tonight the focus is on the heart of the Christian faith. For Christ gives us a new law/commandment – hence, Maundy Thursday - which defines what it is to be Christian. It is a summation of the nature of His (the Word made flesh) Being in the world/life; and therefore, the nature of what He calls us to make our being in the world/lives to be. For He tells us the new commandment is to love each other as He has loved us - to follow his example, live as He lived. And in His life and death Jesus shows us by example what loving each other as He loves us means, namely, to live lives of service/sacrifice to each other as He serves/sacrifices for us.

This is a Commandment the following of which requires a certain character, way of being in the world, a disposition to choose /act in certain ways, and which, when we pray the Prayer of St. Francis is that for which we ask. Let us pray,

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

May God make us instruments of His peace:
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much
Seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

In our Gospel reading Jesus goes on to give us an example of what serving each other looks like in the washing of the disciples' feet; which, notably, is prior to the definitive act of His one, full, perfect, and sufficient **sacrifice** - the culmination of which begins tonight.

For as Michno (1998) notes that tonight:

> "… is the beginning of the sacred three days of the celebration of the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ. It initiates a time of watching, waiting and contemplating, as we enter into the commemoration of the mystery of our redemption. The gift of love in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood is the focus; the demonstration of self-giving in the washing of the feet is a fitting symbol; the watch through the night and the continuation of this liturgy in that of Good Friday is the timelessness of

silence, the silence of God. On this night we celebrate the Great Thanksgiving with the powerful knowledge that:

> *When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread* ***[****and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."****]****… After supper he took the cup of wine* ***[****and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."****] Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. (BCP, 374). (p. 184)"***

The Prayer for the People

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

BLESSINGS and PEACE to ALL!!!
+MWH

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael W. Holland, Founding Bishop
Saint Clare's Anglican Chapel
The Anglican Church International
79 Colt Square, Suite 2
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-409-6915
anglican@uark.edu

Work Cited

Michno, Dennis G. *A Priest's Handbook: The Ceremonies of the Church*. 3rd ed., Morehouse Publishing, 1998.

Microsoft Copilot. “Summary of ‘On Maundy Thursday.’” *Copilot in Microsoft Word*, 9 Apr. 2026.